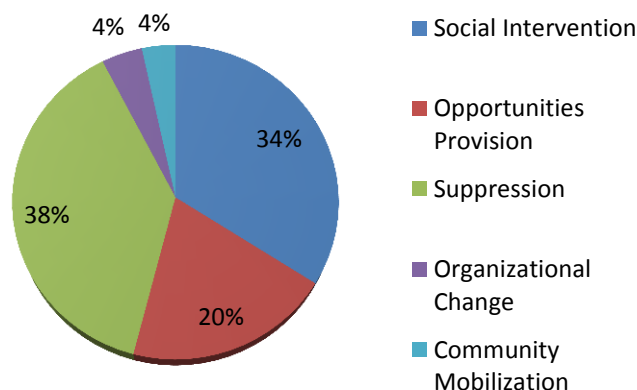


# Fall River Shannon CSI, 2015

**Funded Partners:** Bristol County (DA's office, Sheriff's Office), Bristol County Workforce Investment Board, Fall River Boys and Girls Club, City of Fall River, Fall River Police Department, Fall River YMCA, Family Service Association, Greater Fall River RE-Creation, MA Parole Board. Old Colony YMCA, Solidground. United Neighbors, YouthBuild, Youth Court

This initiative is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Justice and Prevention Division, Daniel Bennett, Secretary

**Figure 1. Fall River Shannon CSI 2015**  
**Funding Allocation: \$486,870**



## Highlights of Shannon Participants:

### Funded Population:

- 16 funded programs
- 189 youth served
  - 66 known to be gang involved

### Education/Employment:

- 34 in employment programs
- 7 had subsidized or unsubsidized employment

### Law Enforcement/Courts and Prosecution:

- 321 hot spot patrols completed
- 36 arrests made of gang members; 4 prosecuted
- 11 stabbing weapons seized
- 32 Shannon youth held on dangerousness hearings

### Personal Development:

- 84 received case management
- 101 participated in youth development programs

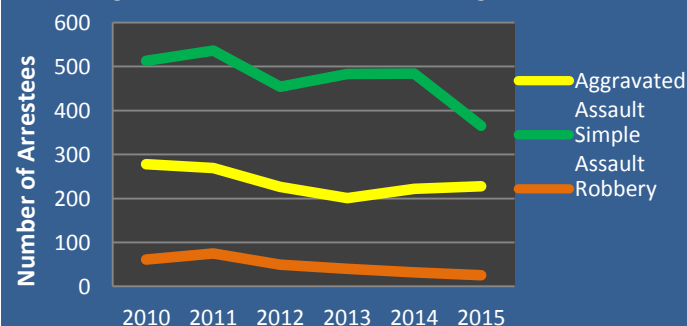
### Community Mobilization

- 5 graffiti removal efforts
- 122 community meetings held

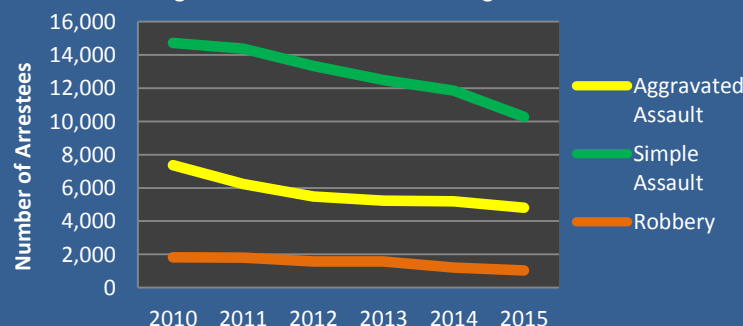
**Community Gang Problem:** Fall River is experiencing ongoing gang feuds that include revenge shootings, stabbings, home invasions, robberies and assaults. Many of the gangs in Fall River engage in prolific gun and narcotics sales. The most active gangs are the Mafioso, Crips, Bloods, Folks, Gangsta Disciples, Tiny Rascal Gang, Asian Boyz and Thertford Street Gang (Buffalo Soldiers) – a violent Boston-based gang that recently tried to take over the Asian Boyz turf in Fall River. The Fall River Police Department has identified 168 gang members in the city.

**Shannon Strategy:** In 2015, Fall River was awarded \$486,875.00 in Shannon CSI funds. The Shannon partners use a positive youth development approach to engage youth to meet their personal and social goals. Fall River has created a centralized youth violence prevention and intervention strategy using Shannon, SSYI, and DPH funds which allows the city to direct services and resources to youth based on their assessed needs and risk level. Fall River has also made a concerted effort to build a strong network of service providers and to offer professional development opportunities for Shannon partners. As Figure 2 shows, as compared to five years ago, Fall River has experienced declines in three types of youth and young adult arrests: aggravated assaults, simple assaults and robberies.

**Figure 2. Fall River Violent Arrestees Ages 14-24**



**Figure 3. MA Violent Arrestees Ages 14-24**



### Community Risk Factors

Each community receiving Shannon CSI funds must demonstrate a need for funding based on a high number of risk factors present in the community which perpetuates youth and gang violence. Approximately one fourth of Fall River's population lives below the poverty line and 56.6% of the student population is categorized as economically disadvantaged, as compared to 26.3% statewide. The out-of-school suspension rate is 9.6% and the four year drop-out rate is 16%, more than three times higher than the state average. Given these community level risk factors, the successful transition of many Fall River youth into adulthood is challenging compared to other non-disadvantaged communities.

Table 1. Fall River Risk Factors, 2015

	Fall River	State
<b>Poverty/ Unemployment</b>		
Poverty <sup>a</sup>	23.3%	11.4%
Economically Disadvantaged <sup>b</sup>	56.6%	26.3%
Unemployment rate	8.0%	4.6%
<b>Education/ School Performance</b>		
Graduation rate	70.4%	87.3%
Dropout rate	16.0%	5.1%
ELL Students	7.8%	8.5%
Suspension rate	9.6%	2.9%
Bachelor's Degree (25+)	13.9%	39.4%
<b>Total population (2014 estimate)</b>	<b>88,712</b>	<b>6,745,408</b>
<b>Total public school population (2014-2015)</b>	<b>10,246</b>	<b>955,844</b>

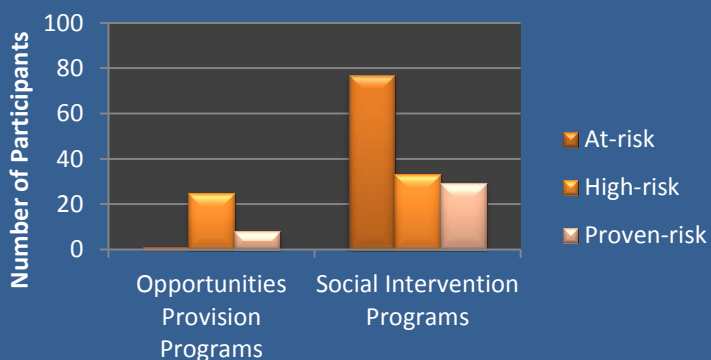
<sup>a</sup>As defined by the US Census Bureau

[www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html)

<sup>b</sup>As defined by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/ed.html>

Figure 4. Number and Risk Level of Fall River Shannon Participants by Comprehensive Gang Model Strategy Area



### Individual Risk Level Definitions

**At-risk youth** are in danger of engaging in risky behaviors because of the presence of risk factors in their environment (either home or community). These factors include but are not limited to: lack of healthy role models; poor community education outcomes; high rates of community substance abuse; high rates of community violence; and high unemployment and/or poverty rates.

**High-risk youth** are exposed to similar risk factors as at-risk youth, and are exposed to additional risk factors such as school failure or early school leaving; substance abuse; court involvement; witnessing violence; or violent victimization.

**Proven-risk youth** are identified as those youth being perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence.

### Overview: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM). The CGM is a multi-sector approach to addressing a community's gang and youth violence problem. After completing a needs assessment, communities assemble a steering committee which uses data to develop strategies in the following five areas:

- **Social intervention programs** for gang involved and proven risk youth include street outreach and case management. These programs reach out and act as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and other traditional social service providers. For high risk youth and at-risk youth, social intervention programs can include drop-in recreation, positive youth development, and other mechanisms to reach young people and connect them to positive adults and constructive activities.
- **Suppression programs** include close supervision or monitoring of gang involved youth and other high impact players by police, prosecutors, probation officers, and other officers of the court. These programs include hotspot patrols, law enforcement home visits, ride-alongs, re-entry, and special prosecutors.
- **Opportunity provision programs** provide education, training, and employment programs for gang involved youth and young people at high risk for youth violence and gang involvement.
- **Organizational change** is the development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies, to better address the gang problem.
- **Community mobilization** includes educating the community about gang and youth violence trends in their city or neighborhood and involving them in strategies to confront the problem.